

GOD OF
Genesis
WONDERS

THE BATTLE FOR OUR HEART
GENESIS 4



*EPISCOPAL PRESIDING BISHOP
KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI*

In her opening address to the church's General Conference in Anaheim California this week, Jefferts Schori called (the sinners prayer of repentance) "the great Western heresy: that we can be saved as individuals, that any of us alone can be in right relationship with God."



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➤ THE BATTLE BEGINS

GENESIS 3:15, 16; 4:7

- Between Satan's seed and Eve's seed

*“Enmity between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed”*

Genesis 3:15



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➤ THE BATTLE BEGINS

GENESIS 3:15, 16; 4:7

- Between Adam and Eve

*“Yet your **desire** will be for your husband, And he will **rule** over you.”*

Genesis 3:16



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➤ THE BATTLE BEGINS

GENESIS 3:15, 16; 4:7

- Between Sin and You

*“...sin is crouching at the door; and its **desire** is for you, but you must **master** it.”* Genesis 4:7

Sin = to lose your way
or miss the mark



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➤ THE BATTLE ZONE:
MY HEART FOR GOD

GENESIS 4:1-5; II CORINTHIANS 11:2

“But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of *devotion to Christ.*”



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GENESIS 4:4, 5

“And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard.”

Offering = a gift or tribute to a superior person. To convey a submission to that person.



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TWO OFFERINGS, TWO HEARTS AND TWO RESPONSES BY GOD:

- Abel's Heart was of faith and righteousness.
God was pleased. Hebrews 11:4

“By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.”



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TWO OFFERINGS, TWO HEARTS AND TWO RESPONSES BY GOD:

- Cain's Heart was evil toward God and hateful toward Abel. God was displeased.

I John 3:11, 12

For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.



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TWO OFFERINGS, TWO HEARTS AND TWO RESPONSES BY GOD:

Which would be yours?
There is no other option.

Abel

or

Cain



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OUR WORSHIP:

1. God intently watches and evaluates your heart of worship. Genesis 4:4, 5
2. You can have the outward appearance of worship like Cain but not the inward heart of worship, like Abel.
3. God is more concerned with your heart in worship than the external elements of worship. Psalm 51:16, 17



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PSALM 51:16, 17

For You do not delight in sacrifice,
otherwise I would give it; You are
not pleased with burnt offering. The
sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and a contrite heart, O
God, You will not despise.



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4. The quality of your worship depends on your relationship with God and others. Read Matthew 5:21-25. Is there a relationship in need of healing that is obstructing your open heart to God. What should you do if you have hurt, offended, acted angrily or rudely to another?



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➤ THE BATTLE RESULTS:
IF MY HEART IS NOT RIGHT
WITH GOD GENESIS 4:5-17

- I experience rejection.

“for Cain and for his offering He had no regard.” Genesis 4:5



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➤ THE BATTLE RESULTS:
IF MY HEART IS NOT RIGHT
WITH GOD GENESIS 4:5-17

- I struggle with anger.

“So Cain became very angry.”

Genesis 4:5

Anger = embittered, fearful,
emotional agitation,
resentful, demoralized.



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➤ THE BATTLE RESULTS:
IF MY HEART IS NOT RIGHT
WITH GOD GENESIS 4:5-17

- I am depressed, discouraged.

“...*his countenance fell.*” Genesis 4:5

Some say, “anger turned inward.”

Sense of sadness and hopelessness.



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➤ THE BATTLE RESULTS:
IF MY HEART IS NOT RIGHT
WITH GOD GENESIS 4:5-17

- I have conflicts in my relationships.

“Cain rose up against Abel his brother.”

Genesis 4:8

Lack of grace, concern, empathy,
caring, kindness toward others.

Inability to be in an intimate
trusting relationship.



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➤ THE BATTLE RESULTS:
IF MY HEART IS NOT RIGHT
WITH GOD GENESIS 4:5-17

• I experience more loss: Genesis 4:14

--Loss of intimacy with God

“from Your face I will be hidden”

--Loss of intimacy with others.

“I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.”

--Loss of significance and security in life.

“whoever finds me will kill me”

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MICHAEL JACKSON

Chuck Colson wrote: “Andrew Sullivan at the *Atlantic Monthly* blog said it well: Michael Jackson “was everything our culture worships; and yet he was obviously desperately unhappy, tortured, afraid and alone.”... By numerous published accounts, Jackson was emotionally abused by his father, ...He was, in the end, as Bob Herbert opined in the *New York Times*, “psychologically disabled, to the point where he was a danger to himself and others.”



➤ BUT... VICTORY CAN BE YOURS FROM OUR GOD OF WONDERS

- God is loving, coming to meet with us, regardless of what we have done. Genesis 4 vs. 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?” vs. 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” Vs. 10 He said, “What have you done?”



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➤ **BUT...VICTORY CAN BE YOURS
FROM OUR GOD OF WONDERS.**

- **God is gracious seeking to heal any area
of our heart or relationships. Genesis 4:15**

So the Lord said to him, “Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him.



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➤ **BUT... VICTORY CAN BE YOURS
FROM OUR GOD OF WONDERS.**

- **God is waiting, will our worship be like Abel or Cain. It all starts with your heart and relationship with God.**



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